

TOWN OF TUPPER LAKE
2015 BUDGET HEARING
&
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

November 5, 2014

- Roll Call: Supervisor Patricia Littlefield
Councilman John Quinn
Councilman Michael Dechene
Councilwoman Kathleen Lefebvre
Councilman Rick Skiff
- Recording Secretary: Laurie J Fuller – Town Clerk
- Press: Dan McClelland – Tupper Lake Free Press
- Also: William Dechene – Highway Superintendent
Mike Fritts – Youth Activity Director
Kirk Gagnier – Town Attorney
- Guest on sign in sheet: Carl Steffen Royce Cole
Mark Arsenault Robbie Kennedy
Nicholas Rolley Paul Maroun
Jonathan Mandigo

Supervisor Littlefield called public hearing for 2015 budget to order at 6:02 p.m. opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Littlefield read Legal Notice:

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the
Preliminary Budget of the Town of Tupper Lake for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2015 has been completed and filed in the Town Clerk’s office where it is available for inspection during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

FURTHER NOTICE
IS GIVEN

That the Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on the said 2015 Preliminary budget on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall office building 120 Demars Blvd., Tupper Lake, New York, at which time any person may be heard in favor of or against any item contained in the Preliminary Budget.

PURSUANT TO
SECTION 108 of

The Town Law, the proposed salaries of the town officials are listed below:
Town Supervisor- \$16,000.00
Deputy Supervisor - \$1,500.00
4 Council Members – \$4,500.00
Town Clerk – \$36,104.00
Town Justice – \$19,647.00
Town Highway Superintendent - \$52,435.00

Public Comment

Mayor Paul Maroun spoke about the \$10,000. taken out of the Fire Department budget; “this will result in the village property taxpayers taking a disproportionate hit”. “Next year the creation of the fire department’s budget would be done collectively by both boards, so everyone is in agreement”.

Fire Chief Carl Steffan, also spoke about the \$10,000 taken out of fire department’s budget; he feels the “department’s budget is not extreme”, this means he will have to cut and where would you like him to

cut. They respond to all calls for free, unlike rescue squad they charge. “All we are asking is the budget for us to do our job”.

Fireman Mark Arsenault, stated he is tired of hearing the Town versus Village arguments, “We all live in Tupper Lake”. The volunteers do raise money to purchase equipment. “We offer great service and do not ask for much in return”.

Fireman Nichols Rolley, stated maintenance on the trucks alone are costly, trucks always being used not to just fight fire but also used for training.

Fireman Royce Cole, if ever any questions on fire department issues please ask, always available sick of hearing he said she said, signed up to fight fire not be involved in politics.

Councilman Rick Skiff wondered why the \$43,000. contribution from Santa Clara couldn’t be factored into reducing the overall sum for all three funding parties. He stated the \$10,000. was not taken from the department but from the department’s \$139,000. request for 2015 which is \$20,000. more than last year.

Councilman John Quinn stated a 17% increase is a lot for tax payers, unlike the Santa Clara fire contract which is a zero to 3% increase, feel more comfortable with the \$129,000.; we have to try to stay within the 1.56% tax cap.

Supervisor Patricia Littlefield stated one of the difficulties of formulating a fire department budget each year is that the village’s fiscal year begins in June, so each year the village presents us with a budget that is adopted 6 months earlier.

Councilman Mike Dechene, stated the \$10,000. for the rescue squad was taken from the general , not the fire department, the board has not appropriated money for the rescue squad in over a decade.

Supervisor Littlefield stated in this preliminary budget the tax cap is over \$12,103.92, have already cut \$100,000. out of budget. This is a very tight budget, more actual.

Motion to close public hearing for 2015 budget at 6:55 p.m., was made by Councilwoman Lefebvre

Seconded by Councilman Dechene
All Town Board Members voted AYE 5/0 Littlefield, Quinn, Dechene, Lefebvre, Skiff

Motion to open regular board meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. was made by Councilman Dechene

Seconded by Councilman Skiff
All Town Board Members voted AYE 5/0 Littlefield, Quinn, Dechene, Lefebvre, Skiff

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as written for meetings dated September 11, 2014 and October 9, 2014 was made by Councilwoman Lefebvre.

Seconded by Councilman Dechene
All Town Board Members voted AYE 5/0 Littlefield, Quinn, Dechene, Lefebvre, Skiff

2. Approve Abstract

Town of Tupper Lake
Abstract #11 – November 5, 2014
Vouchers # 2014-0696 – 0758

Fund		Prepaid/Debit	Unpaid	Total
General	200.01	\$4,045.59	\$13,128.14	\$17,173.73
General (B)	200.02	-	-	-
Highway	200.03	\$27.55	\$26,868.40	\$26,895.95
Highway Outside	200.04	\$71,674.54	\$2,880.35	\$74,554.89
Fire District	200.06	-	-	-
Sewer #5	200.10	-	\$73.90	\$73.90
Sewer #8-1	200.12	-	\$7.42	\$7.42

Sewer #8-2	200.13	-	\$40.66	\$40.66
Sewer #17	200.15	-	\$40.66	\$40.66
Sewer #17-1	200.16	-	\$7.41	\$7.41
Sewer #17-2	200.17	-	\$7.41	\$7.41
Sewer #23	200.19	\$80,350.00	\$294.54	\$80,644.54
Water #3	200.21	-	\$286.70	-
Water #7	200.24	\$15,354.84	-	\$15,354.84
Water #8-2	200.26	-	-	-
Moody Lighting	200.31	-	-	-
Water #15	200.36	\$1,052.44	-	\$1,052.44
Total for Abstract		\$172,504.96	\$43,635.59	\$216,140.55

Motion to approve Abstract of Audited Vouchers in the amount of \$216,140.55 also including Balance Sheets and Operating Statement was made by Councilman Skiff.

Seconded by Councilman Dechene
All Town Board Members voted AYE 5/0 Littlefield, Quinn, Dechene, Lefebvre, Skiff

3. Approve Budget Transfers

Budget Transfers TABLED until next meeting

4. Approve Monthly reports

Code officer

**Monthly Report
October 2014**

9 Building Permits issued in October

0 Demolition Permits

3 Complaint filed

Completed 32 field inspections

October 2014 miles logged 193

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted:

Paul O’Leary
Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Tupper Lake

Youth Activity Director

Recreation Report for 11-05-14

HALLOWEEN DANCE

Last Thursday was the annual Cabbage Night Halloween Dance at the Holy Ghost Academy. About 75 middle/high schoolers came in costume and spent 2.5 hours in the gym dancing to live music and competing in contests with prizes generously donated prizes. The dance serves a dual purpose as it’s also meant to curb Cabbage Night pranks and mischief. And as each year the police department has reported a fairly mischief free night.

XC SKIING

Signups are underway and initial response has been positive. Quite a few new skiers to the program which is exciting.

RESERVATION SOFTWARE

I've held off on purchase of the new software because I recently learned that we may obtain a software program for free which would be great.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

With the success of the Zombie Walk I plan to once again team with Scott Gravlin for a couple of events this winter. It was great to work with someone with enthusiasm and dedication so we've come up with a couple of different ideas and will be meeting this week to hash them out.

LUMBERJACK SCRAMBLE

I have been on talks with NYSSRA about sanctioning a race this year. There are some costs involved but in return it helps draw skiers to the area. A \$55 fee is applied to register the race. This would make it an officially sanctioned race and also be placed on the NYSSRA calendar. In addition they offer to be an additionally insured partner which carries an additional \$4 per skier which is generally added to the registration fee. So if we charge \$15 per participant it would most likely be a break even event. Tentatively I'm looking at February 14, 2015. I would have tried to coincide with the Fire and Ice event that's being planned but a big race is being held that day at Dewey. With the board's permission I would like to get this race sanctioned this week so it can be put on the calendar.

Motion to approve Monthly reports as presented from Code Officer, Youth Activity Director and Highway Superintendent was made by Councilman Quinn.

Seconded by Councilman Skiff

All Town Board Members voted AYE 5/0 Littlefield, Quinn, Dechene, Lefebvre, Skiff

5. Committee Reports

Councilman Quinn stated on the **cross country ski trail** the Highway Superintendent and his crew did a great job fixing the **drainage behind the pro shop**, the area between the pro shop and #10 is going to be a problem grade is higher than slab. John Gillis has offered to sand bag it. He has a couple maple logs worth some value would like permission to trade for cost of saw mill time having other hemlock trees cut to make bridges we will need. Board members O.K. that. Have to check on doors in cart barn that overhead door fixed unable to open. Carts need to be removed.

Councilman Skiff reported it may be possible the **storage building** to store **recreation equipment** is back on table, there was some question as to where we can put it.

6. Setting Pole Dam

Councilwoman Lefebvre requested the selling of Setting Pole Dam be put on the agenda again. Town Attorney, Kirk Gagnier attended meeting to explain the process, the town needs to determine what benefits and what detriments ownership of the dam holds for the town. Any agreement to sell could contain covenants to protect public interests here and there could be a reverted clause in the event any new owner didn't abide by the sales agreement. If board moves forward any sale is subject to a permissive referendum. A Public vote would be prompted by a petition signed by a number of town residents. Any referendum could be held during a general election if not the town would have to follow routine election practices with poll watchers and such.

Attorney Gagnier will research if the board can move for a referendum and the timing between when the board first determines it holds no town purpose and a resolution to sell the dam by bid, questions board members asked. Board members agreed a public vote be held before the town goes to the expense of offering the dam for sale by bid. Possible have Dennis Ryan attend meeting to see if he is still interested in buying dam.

7. Budget TABLED

Board members agreed to TABLED the adoption of the 2015 budget and schedule a special meeting for Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m..

8. Advertise for bids

Motion to go out to bid for a (gradall) wheeled excavator and set bid opening for Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. was made by Councilman Skiff.

Seconded by Councilman Quinn

All Town Board Members voted AYE 5/0 Littlefield, Quinn, Dechene, Lefebvre, Skiff

9. Public comment

No Public Comment

10. Executive session

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:22 p.m. to discuss pending litigation matter was made by Councilman Dechene.

Seconded by Councilwoman Lefebvre

All Town Board Members voted AYE 5/0 Littlefield, Quinn, Dechene, Lefebvre, Skiff

Motion to enter out of executive session at 8:45 p.m. with no action taken was made by Councilman Dechene

Seconded by Councilwoman Lefebvre

All Town Board Members voted AYE 5/0 Littlefield, Quinn, Dechene, Lefebvre, Skiff

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. was made by Councilman Quinn

Seconded by Councilman Skiff

All Town Board Members voted AYE 5/0 Littlefield, Quinn, Dechene, Lefebvre, Skiff

Laurie J Fuller – Town Clerk RMC